

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAI-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 EB-11 COA-02 SCI-06 CU-04

AGR-20 DOTE-00 CG-00 COME-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 /146 W

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R 061030Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7547

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0154

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BU

SUBJECT: POPOV'S PROPOSED TRIP TO US

REF: A. STATE 00135; B. SOFIA 1756, 0071 AND PREVIOUS;  
C. 0137 AND PREVIOUS SOFIA

1. DURING CALL ON FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
TRADE LUKANOV ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE QUESTION OF FIRST  
DEPUTY PREMIER IVAN POPOV'S LONGPROPOSED TRIP TO US  
WAS RAISED. WE COVERED MUCH OF THE GROUND PREVIOUSLY  
DISCUSSED (REF B) BUT WITH FURTHER REFINEMENTS, HOPE-  
FULLY.

2. ACCORDING TO LUKANOV AND BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL  
COUNSELOR KHRISTOV WHO IN TOWN FROM NEW YORK FOR FEW DAYS  
AND ALSO AT MEETING, BAKER AND HOUSTON OF EUR/EE HAVE  
DISCUSSED VISIT WITH BULGARIAN CHARGE' VELCHEV. I  
ASKED WHEN DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AND KHRISTOV SAID  
RECENTLY. THEY QUOTED DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS SAYING  
VISIT WAS MOST WELCOME AND OFFERED EXTEND NEW INVITA-  
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TION IF BULGARS FELT THAT NECESSARY. WHAT LUKANOV

WANTED FROM ME WAS SOME IDEA OF WHAT POPOV MIGHT SIGN AND WHEN. WE REHASHED THE POSSIBILITY OF FISHERIES AND TRANSPORTATION AND NAVIGATION AGREEMENTS. (WHEN IN GOOD HUMOR, I SAID TIMING ON FISHERIES AGREEMENT DID NOT SEEM AUSPICIOUS RIGHT NOW, KHRISTOV HEATEDLY SAID NOTHING WILL BE SIGNED UNTIL OUR SHIP IS RELEASED. I LOOKED STARTLED AND LUKANOV TOLD HIM TO KNOCK IT OFF AND HE DID). LUKANOV AGAIN RAISED POSSIBILITY TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT AND I COUNTERED WITH THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT. HE SAID POPOV REALLY WOULD LIKE TO SIGN A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT OR AN AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, FISHERIES AND TRANSPORTATION AND NAVIGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE ENOUGH. I ASKED IF THEY WERE WORKING ON A DRAFT AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT AND LUKANOV SAID, "YES, IT IS BEING REDRAFTED." FROM HIS DESCRIPTION, THE DRAFT DEALS PRIMARILY WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS, AND DELEGATIONS. I ENCOURAGE HIM TO BRING IT FORWARD.

3. WE THEN DISCUSSED TIMING AND AS BEST I COULD, I EXPLAINED OUR PROCEDURES. WHEN PRESSED FOR THE MINIMUM TIME NEEDED ON SAY A FISHERIES OR TRANSPORTATION AND NAVIGATION AGREEMENT, I ESTIMATED THREE MONTHS BUT UNDERLINED MY LACK OF ANY REAL KNOWLEDGE (WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON TIMING). THIS WOULD PUT POPOV IN STATES IN JUNE AT THE EARLIEST, LUKANOV OBSERVED AND IMPLIED TOO BAD BUT TOLERABLE.

4. TO MY SURPRISE, LUKANOV THEN RAISED THE INVITATION I HAD HANDED HIM FROM US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGARDING VISIT TO US IN MARCH IN CONNECTION WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND BULGAR CHAMBERS. SAID PERHAPS THIS WAS SOMETHING POPOV SHOULD BE PRESENT AT AND WONDERED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING IT OFF (CLEARLY KHRISTOV HAD COME WITH NEWS OF THE US CHAMBER'S NEW PLANNING, SEE REFTELS C). AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGEMENT, I SAID I WOULD IMAGINE THAT US CHAMBER WOULD BE VERY WILLING TO COMPLY BUT THOUGHT INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM BULGARIAN SIDE. LUKANOV SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE IDEA WITH POPOV AND LET ME KNOW HIS DECISION.

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RECOMMENDATION: AS PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED, I SUGGEST WE BEGIN BY QUICKLY TABLING TWO OR THREE DRAFT AGREEMENTS. I WOULD PREFER SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DRAFT AGREEMENTS. IF WE DO NOT GET THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT NOW, IT WILL SURELY COME WITH MFN AND CREDITS AS LUKANOV BROADLY HINTED. TOO, WE WOULD KNOW WHERE WE STAND ON THIS ISSUE. THE OTHERS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AND IF WE DO NOT SIGN A SCIENTIFIC

AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT SOON BULGARS WILL LEARN THAT  
MOST OF WHAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT OFFERS CAN BE OBTAINED  
THROUGH COMMERCIAL DEALS. I THINK FISHERIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION AND NAVIGATION COULD BE NEGOTIATED  
FAIRLY EASILY BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.  
I MUST STRESS ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF COPING  
WITH THE POPOV VISIT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF POSSI-  
BILITY OF AN EARLY VISIT BY DENT.  
BATJER

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## Message Attributes

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